

## **Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300**

I object to the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300. Rix's Creek open cut coal mine is 5km north-west of Singleton and this application would continue mining 3.6 million tonnes of coal per year until 2040. There is significant land use conflict with the expansion of Singleton township to the west.

Further I object to the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300 for the following reasons:

1. Air pollution at Camberwell and North West Singleton regularly exceeds the national standards. The assessment of air pollution from Rix's Creek Mine has been identified as inadequate by the Department of Planning after the publication of their final assessment report stating the opposite.
2. An additional 72 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year is inexcusable in this time of climate emergency.
3. The cumulative impact of open cut mine disturbance over approx. 2,000 ha land has not been adequately assessed for water, final voids, biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions or for negative social and health impacts.
4. The impact of loss of key connective habitat for threatened species such as the Squirrel Glider has not been assessed. The biodiversity offset arrangements are incomplete and will not offset the loss of landscape habitat connectivity across the upper Hunter Valley floor.
5. Many assessments are incomplete eg for the second cut and cover tunnel under the New England Highway. It is inappropriate for these to be done after approval.
6. There is no consistency of policy application by the Department of Planning. The Rix's Creek mine expansion has not been assessed under the current Policy for Industrial Noise 2017 but has been assessed under the regulations of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.
7. The people of Camberwell village have not been protected by property acquisition rights
8. It is inappropriate for the closest mine to Singleton to be assessed under achievable noise criteria. The proposed criteria are too high and will result in health impacts.
9. The cumulative health costs of mining in the Upper Hunter have not been included in the costs benefits analysis. The public benefit of the project does not outweigh the public costs.
10. The Upper Hunter is now over saturated with open cut coal mining impacts. No additional impacts can be tolerated. No more final voids should be approved.

The era of the political economy is almost over, and its demise cannot come a moment too soon. No responsible government ought to ever approve such a project because a responsible government should know that by doing so it will end up having blood on its hands.

Fossil fuels are finished, and governments which go along approving projects such as the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining project risk being accused of being in collusion with Big Corpa in a bid to exact every last cent out of an industry known to kill people, animals, plants and the planet.

I am a mother and a grandmother: if you approve the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project, you will be condemning my family, and my friends' families and families of the Upper Hunter and Hunter to the perils of a worsening climate emergency exacerbated in no small part by Australian politicians who wilfully have chosen to ignore the science of climate change and evidence.

I object to the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300.

Kind regards,

Sue Abbott

